

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho TR)

SITE NAME: Ritter, William M., House

SITE NUMBER: 92

LOCATION: ~~Five miles north, two miles east, three-quarter mile north of~~
NE 1/4 Shoshone, Idaho
vic.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Patrick J. O'Maley
Rural Route
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Kinzie Butte, 7.5 minutes ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Ritter House and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 5, T5S, R18E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/715640/4766175

DATE OR PERIOD: 1928

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: William R. Ritter

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This approximately 32-foot-square house has a composition-shingled hipped roof with a high, centered red brick chimney. The close eaves have exposed, angularly cut rafters. A centered, shed roofed dormer extends from the peak on the right exposure. One corner of the house is truncated to form a corner entrance. A triangular concrete stoop extends from the entrance. The corner of the roof extends over the stoop to form an overporch. The windows and doors have rough concrete lintels and no sills. They are set about six inches in from the outside wall. Large rounded stones with flat faces are in the rubble walls. There is concrete pointing, roughly applied, in the medium-width joints from the ground to about half-way up each of the twelve-foot-high walls. The remainder of the walls are unpointed. The original windows are double-hung, but several have been replaced with single-paned metal-framed windows. There is a shed-roofed, unpainted frame addition on the rear that was used as a back porch and garage.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This small home is significant both because of its craftsmanship and because it is an example of an owner-built vernacular house. It has an attractive setting on a

h point with irrigated pasture behind it. The original owner, William R. Ritter, built the house himself. He had worked for the Idaho Irrigation Company and learned some masonry skills there. It is one of the earliest examples found in Lincoln and Jerome counties in which the decorative surface of the lava rock was exploited. Its use in this building predates the current use of slab lava veneer and serves as an interesting transitional example. The work on the house was hurried in 1928 to provide the setting for the wedding of one of Ritter's daughters. Ritter pointed the joints only as high as he could reach. He became ill and could not finish the portions that would have required a ladder. The house is in good condition and is now being used as a guest house. The frame addition on the east was added in the 1930's. The addition to the house is historical in its own right and makes the house more functional, but could be removed.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Bancroft, Ruby, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, Summer 1979.